



April 26, 2001

Honorable Robert O'Farrell
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Monterey County
1200 Aguajito Road
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Judge O'Farrell,

In accordance with Sections 933(c) and 933.05 of the California Penal Code, the City of Soledad is responding to the relevant findings and recommendations #1 through #5 and #7 offered by the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury. The responses are outlined below:

1. The Police Department has placed domestic violence prevention and assistance written material in a prominent display case in the police station lobby. The information is available in both English and Spanish. The supplies of the material are continually monitored and replaced when necessary. Bilingual posters on the same subject are clearly visible in the police station lobby. The Chief of Police has distributed a memorandum to all personnel in the Police Department to ensure stricter compliance with the requirements of the California Penal Code regarding domestic violence reporting and distribution of prevention and assistance materials.
2. The Police Department has provided domestic violence prevention and assistance bilingual written material to the United States Post Office and the local library to increase the availability of the information outside the confines of the police station. Officers are now required to include in their reports a statement that the recommended domestic violence information was provided to the victim.
3. The Police Department admittedly does not provide direct, unrestricted 24-hour access to the domestic violence material maintained in the police station lobby. However, the Police Department does provide such material to the United States Post Office and the local library. It is the Police Department's belief that those individuals who might feel too intimidated to enter a police station would likewise feel too intimidated to access domestic violence information from an outside container placed in close proximity to the police station. For this reason, the Police Department has deliberately opted to place the domestic violence prevention and assistance information in a location *removed* from the police station, e.g. the Post Office and local library.

Soledad Police Department

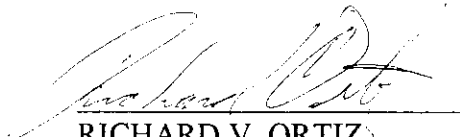
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4. All the officers of the Police Department have received California Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission approved training in domestic violence issues. In addition, a female police officer has been designated as the Police Department's "expert" on domestic violence issues. As such she will receive priority assignments to training seminars on the issue with the requirement that she return to the Police Department and disseminate the information gathered at the training seminars.
5. With the deployment of a School Resource Officer and a DARE officer at Soledad High School, the Main Street Middle School, and elementary schools, the Police Department has entered into a partnership with the Soledad Unified School District to educate children in developing tolerance and respect for self and others. Officers of the Police Department, including the Chief of Police, regularly participate in the Safe Schools Committee monthly meetings organized by the Soledad Unified School District to address issues that include diversity, tolerance, and respect for others.
7. The Police Department received a large supply of domestic violence prevention and assistance bilingual informational flyers from the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council of Monterey County. Those flyers are placed in the police station lobby and distributed as appropriate by officers in response to domestic violence calls.

I apologize for the delay in submitting this response in a timely manner. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Chief of Police John W. Hough directly at 831/678-1332 extension 142.

Sincerely,



RICHARD V. ORTIZ
Mayor